(c) The staff strength in Indian Missions is kept under constant review, and additional personnel are provided whenever and wherever necessity is felt.

(d) The total number of foreign nationals employed in Indian Missions is one thousand two hundred and four (1204).

Vayudoot Service to Akola (Maharashtra)

2383. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Akola in Maharashtra has been brought on Vayudoot map;

(b) when the inaugural flight was conducted, and who were the VIP's on it;

(c) the number of flights conducted after the inaugural flight till date; and

(d) whether there is any problem for regular service; and if so, what steps are proposed to resolve it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The inaugural flight to Akola was operated on 1st October, 1988. Apart from me, the Minister of State for Protocol and the Industries Minister, Maharashtra, the Member of Parliament from Akola, the Chairman and the Managing Director, Indian Airlines, and the Managing Director, Vayudoot, were on board the flight.

(c) and (d) Since Vayudoot is facing acute shortage of aircraft capacity, it has not so far been possible for it to operate regular commercial services to Akola. However, Vayudoot is in the process of acquiring additional aircraft capacity to meet the situation.

Flight kitchen by Indian Airlines

2384. SHRI TALARI MANOHAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Airlines have a plan to establish its own flight kitchen;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Flight kitchen is a business in itself. With the large number of passengers being handled daily by the Indian Airlines, with 72 stations in the country and abroad on its network, it is not possible for the Corporation to make its own arrangements for flight catering.

SC/ST employees in Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism

2385. SHRI TALARI MANOHAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe employees category-wise with places of posting in the Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism;

(b) the number of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe employees working in the D.G.C.A. category-wise, with places of posting;

(c) whether the regular quotas for recruitment to the higher posts have been filled up, and if not, what are the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether scheduled caste/scheduled tribe employees enjoy facilities in the alloment of departmental accommodations as are given to the Central Government employees?